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Inventory for Manuscript Collection MS-20

Captain Walter M. Mallett Papers, 1886-1907

by
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Shelf feet: .5
Number of boxes: 1

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Abstract

Mallett, Walter M., 1859-1931

Walter M. Mallett papers, 1886-1907

1 box (.5 shelf foot)

Sea captain from Topsham, ME.

Papers of Captain Walter M. Mallet, primarily business correspondence relating to his command of the vessels **Syren** (ship) and **Guy C. Goss** (bark). The bulk of the papers concern the **Guy C. Goss** and her voyages between 1888 and 1896. Also includes captain's journals for voyages of the **Guy C. Goss** and **Hawaiian Isles** (bark), as well as an account book containing records of voyages of the **Syren, Guy C. Goss** and **Hawaiian Isles**.

Loose documents donated by Suffolk Marine Museum in 1971: G71.326.2. Log and account books purchased from Jacqueline Tuttle in 1996: 96.91.1-96.91.3.

Finding aid in repository, folder level control.

Added entries: Account books; Besse, William H.; **Guy C. Goss** (bark); **Hawaiian Isles** (bark); Merchant seamen; **Syren** (ship); **W.W. Crapo** (bark)

Acquisition

The correspondence in this collection was acquired by the museum in 1971 through a donation from the Suffolk Marine Museum. These papers are identified by the accession number G71.326.2.

The log and account books in this collection were purchased from Jacqueline Tuttle in 1996. These books are identified by the accession numbers 96.91.1, 96.91.2 and 96.91.3. Ms. Tuttle's grandfather, William Graves, sailed with Captain Mallett, and after Mallett's death the books were given to Graves by Katherine Mallett.

Restrictions

There are no restrictions on the use of these papers.

Physical Condition

The majority of the papers are in good physical condition. Some of the documents have faded ink or discolorations that may make them difficult to read. In addition, some of the documents show water damage.

The journals are in good physical condition although the bindings have become deteriorated and are crumbling in spots. The majority of the pages are clean and legible.

Processing Note

At the time of acquisition, the material from the Suffolk Marine Museum was received in a binder, each letter individually pasted in. In the early 1970s, Museum staff removed the letters from the binder. Original order was not recorded, but was likely chronological.

Historical Note

Walter M. Mallett was born on July 25, 1859, to Isaac and Melissa Ann (Purington) Mallett. On May 27, 1886, he married Katherine Maria Cox, known as Kate. Captain Mallett lived in Topsham, Maine, until the time of his death. He spent forty-one years at sea, retiring in 1917, and died on August 8, 1931.

Mallett went to sea in 1876, serving on the **Henry Failing** (ship) among others. Mallett was given his first command, of the **W.W. Crapo** (bark), in 1884. In the years that followed he commanded several other ships; the **Syren** (ship) from 1886 to 1888, the **Guy C. Goss** (bark) from 1888 to 1900, the **Hawaiian Isles** (bark) from 1901 to 1910, and the **Dirigo** (ship) in 1911 and 1912-1917.

Captain Mallett's wife accompanied him on most of his voyages, and at the end of her life she remembered that they had sailed around Cape Horn together twenty-eight times.

Scope and Content Note

The collection consists primarily of business correspondence, telegrams, and instructions relating to Mallett's command of the **Syren** (ship), **Guy C. Goss** (bark), and **Hawaiian Isles** (bark). All correspondence is arranged chronologically. All of the letters and telegrams are items received by Mallett, with the exception of three items in folder 15 and 2 items in folder 16. These items are sheets listing code words for use in telegrams, and one telegram from Mallett to W. H. Besse. Folder 12 contains a letter written to Katherine Mallett from W. H. Besse.

This collection also contains two journals and one account book kept by Mallett in the course of his voyages, dating from periods between 1886 and 1907. Some of the entries in the journal kept on the **Hawaiian Isles** (bark) were made by Katherine Mallett. Additional captain's accounts from the **Hawaiian Isles** are found in folder 20.

Container List

Folder	1	Account book for **Syren** (ship), **Guy C. Goss** (bark), and **Hawaiian Isles** (bark), August 9 1886 – June 4, 1907
	2	Journal for **Guy C. Goss** (bark), July 8 1896 – April 15 1899
	3	Journal for **Hawaiian Isles** (bark), July 29 1902 – December 5 1903
	4	Letter from W. H. Besse regarding the **W. W. Crapo** (bark), January 29 1886
	5	Incoming business correspondence, **Syren** (ship), May 1886 – May 1887
	6	Incoming business correspondence, **Syren** (ship), May 1887 – December 31 1887
	7	Incoming business correspondence, **Guy C. Goss** (bark), January 30 1888 – November 3 1888
	8	Incoming business correspondence, **Guy C. Goss** (bark), November 5 1888 – April 25 1889
	9	Incoming business correspondence, **Syren** (ship) and **Guy C. Goss** (bark), May 6 1889 – February 24 1890
	10	Incoming business correspondence, **Guy C. Goss** (bark), March 3 1890 – June 25 1891
	11	Incoming business correspondence, **Guy C. Goss** (bark), July 2 1891 – March 3 1892
	12	Incoming business correspondence, **Guy C. Goss** (bark), March 5 1892 – August 31 1892
	13	Incoming business correspondence, **Guy C. Goss** (bark), September 1 1892 – November 8 1892
	14	Incoming business correspondence, **Guy C. Goss** (bark), November 25 1892 – July 28 1893
	15	Business correspondence, **Guy C. Goss** (bark), August 1 1893 – January 23 1894
	16	Business correspondence, **Guy C. Goss** (bark), January 26 1894 – December 24 1894
	17	Incoming business correspondence, **Guy C. Goss** (bark), January 9 1895 – August 3 1895

18 Incoming business correspondence, **Guy C. Goss** (bark), September 11 1895 – November 20 1896

19 Incoming business correspondence, **Guy C. Goss** (bark), November 30 1896 – August 11 1897

20 Captain's accounts for **Hawaiian Isles** (bark), June 29 1904 – November 7 1906

Additional Sources

Additional information on the voyages of Captain Mallett in the **Guy C. Goss** (bark) in 1898 and the **Hawaiian Isles** (bark) in 1904 may be found in Carlton B. Allen's book *The Landlubber's Log or Sailor Jack's Adventures* (vols. I and II). Printed in 1974, these are Allen's journal accounts of those voyages, during the second of which he became second mate of the **Hawaiian Isles**. They include many photographs.

These items are catalogued in the museum's small manuscript collection as SM 82/1.

There is other material relating to Mallett in MS-22.